

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

March 15, 2006

In re the application of:

Noah Montena and Michael T. Fox

Confirmation No.: 2797

Serial No.: 10/781,376

Art Unit: 2839

Filed: 02/18/2004

Examiner: Dinh, Phuong K.

For: CABLE CONNECTOR WITH ELASTOMERIC BAND

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Jill E. Brunet
 Jill E. Brunet

**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES
 OR IN A NAFTA OR WTO MEMBER COUNTRY
 TO OVERCOME CITED PATENT OR PUBLICATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.131)**

PURPOSE OF DECLARATION

1. This declaration is to establish completion of the invention of this application in
- ☒ the United States
 - ☐ the NAFTA country _____ (name of country)
 - ☐ the WIPO country _____ (name of country)
- at a date prior to June 25, 2003, that is the effective date of the prior art
- ☐ publication _____
 - ☒ patent U.S. Patent 6,805,584 to Chen
 - ☐ patent publication _____
 - ☐ other _____

that was cited by the

- ☒ examiner.
- ☐ applicant.

2. The person making this declaration is (are):
- ☒ the inventor(s).
 - ☐ only some of the joint inventor(s) (and a suitable excuse is attached for failure of the omitted joint inventor(s) to sign).
 - ☐ the party in interest (and a suitable explanation as why it is not possible to produce the declaration of the inventor(s) is attached).

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FACTS AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

3. To establish the date of completion of the invention of this application, the following attached documents and/or models are submitted as evidence:

(check all applicable items below)

- ☒ sketches
- ☐ blueprints
- ☐ photographs
- ☐ reproduction(s) of notebook entries
- ☒ model (computer based)
- ☐ supporting statement(s) by witness(es) (where verbal disclosures are the evidence relied upon)
- ☐ interference testimony
- ☒ disclosure documents

4. From these documents and/or models, it can be seen that the invention in this application was made

- ☐ on _____.
- ☒ at least by the date of June 1, 2003, which is a date earlier than the effective date of the reference.

DILIGENCE

5. Attached is a statement establishing the diligence of the applicants, from the time of their conception, to a time just prior to the date of the reference, up to the:

- ☒ actual reduction to practice.
- ☐ filing of this application.

TIME OF PRESENTATION OF THE DECLARATION

(complete (a), (b) or (c))

- (a) ☒ This declaration is submitted prior to final rejection.
- (b) ☐ This declaration is submitted with the first response after final rejection, and is for the purpose of overcoming a new ground of rejection or requirement made in the final rejection.
- (c) ☐ This declaration is submitted after final rejection. A showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) is submitted herewith.

DECLARATION

6. As a person signing below:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Serial No.: 10/781,376
Atty. Docket No.: 205_097

Express Mail Label No. EV676906618US

SIGNATURES

7.

A. Inventors

Full name of **sole** or **first** inventor Noah Montena
Inventor's signature Noah Montena
Date 3.10.06 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.
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Full name of **second** joint inventor, if any Michael T. Fox
Inventor's signature Michael T. Fox
Date 03-02-06 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.
Residence 101 High Sail Court, Mooresville, NC 28117
Post Office Address PPC, 6176 East Molloy Rd., East Syracuse, NY, 13057-0278

Elastomeric Ring CATV Connector

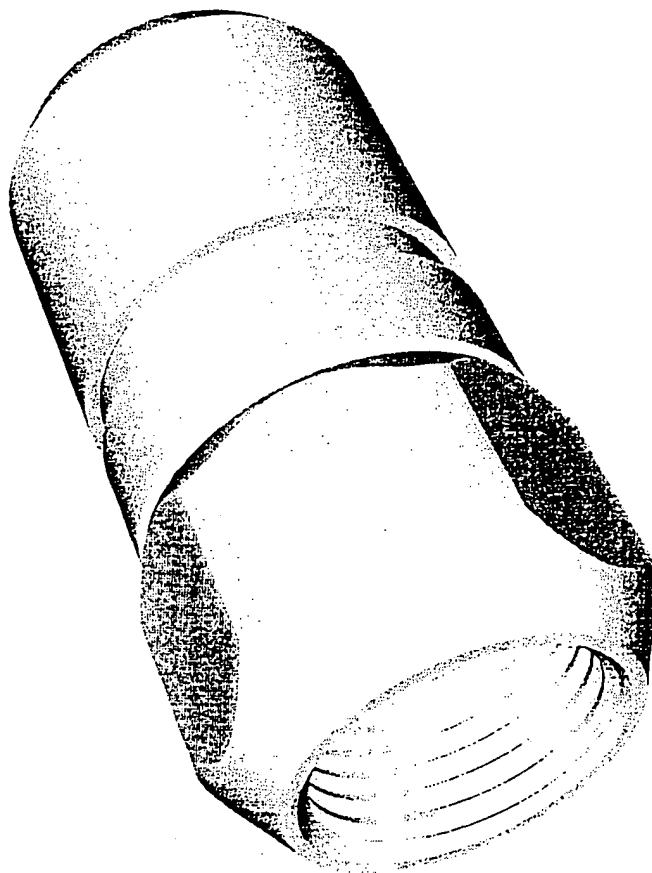
This connector draws on technology which has been used in the premise wiring and automation wiring industries for years, but which has yet to be successfully implemented in connectors for cable television. It is most commonly found in strain reliefs for cables entering junction boxes and other types of sealed enclosures.

The basic principal of operation is to encircle the cable with an elastomeric material. In its "open" position, the ring has enough clearance to allow the cable to pass through it easily. By axial compression, tightening of threaded bodies, or by some other means of applying compressive force to the elastomer, the ring is squeezed inward on the cable. This creates a weather seal, as well as a great deal of normal force between the elastomer and the sheathing of the cable, which provides retention force. In addition to the tractive forces created by surface friction, the coaction of a barbed post under the cable sheathing, and the inward pressure of the elastomer, causes the cable sheath to conform closely to the profile of the barb, creating a mechanical interlock.

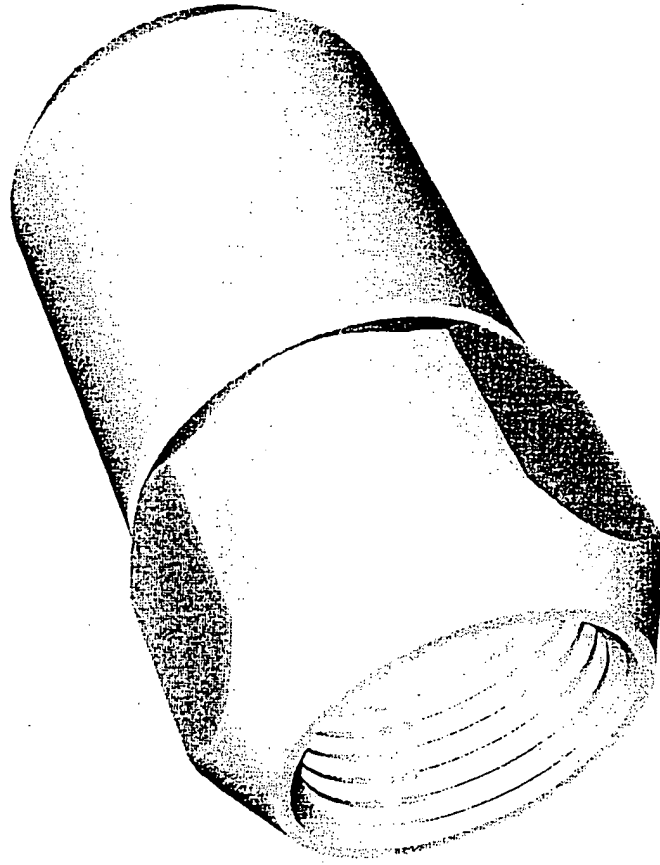
This type of connector is more easily capable of accommodating the broad range of cable diameters within a given cable family because of the flowable nature of the elastomer compression element. It conforms to surface irregularities in the cable, as well as being "sticky" which makes a better seal. Varieties of the connector could include tool-compressed, standard compression styles, as well as ones which can be tightened by hand for indoor consumer use. Another possibility is to include the elastomer sealing element in a modification of an existing design, as a redundant means of sealing.

Because the sealing and gripping are done by a small, contained element of the connector, the exterior of the connector can be made from whatever material suits a particular application. For instance, for outdoor applications the entire exterior can be brass. The all-metal exterior of the connector may or may not offer improved weather resistance or better RF shielding, but the prevailing customer perception is that it is better, and so becomes a highly marketable sales feature. A hand tightenable, all-plastic version with only a metal post could be easily injection molded for the indoor consumer market.

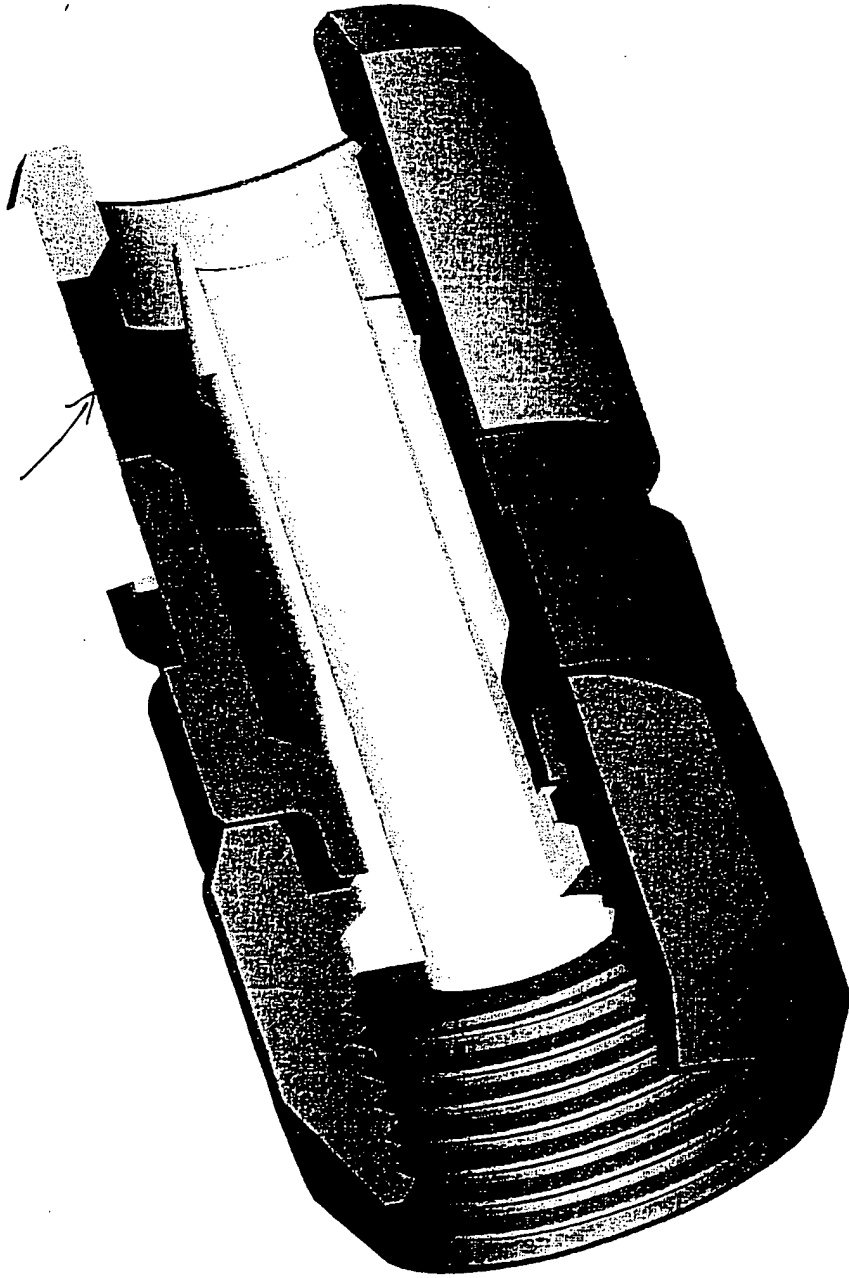
ALL METAL VERSION,
PRIOR TO INSTALLATION



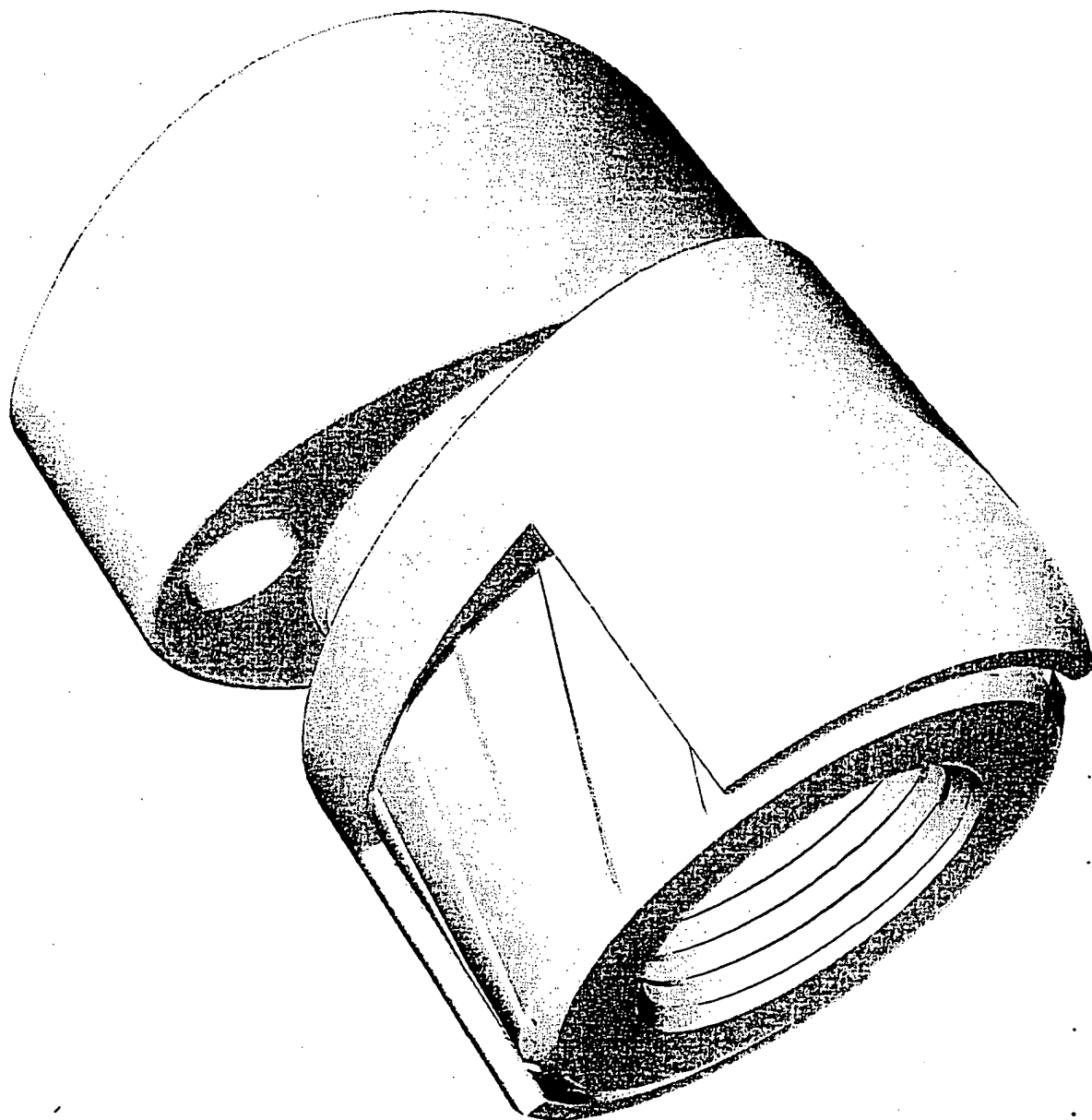
ALL METAL VERSION,
INSTALLED



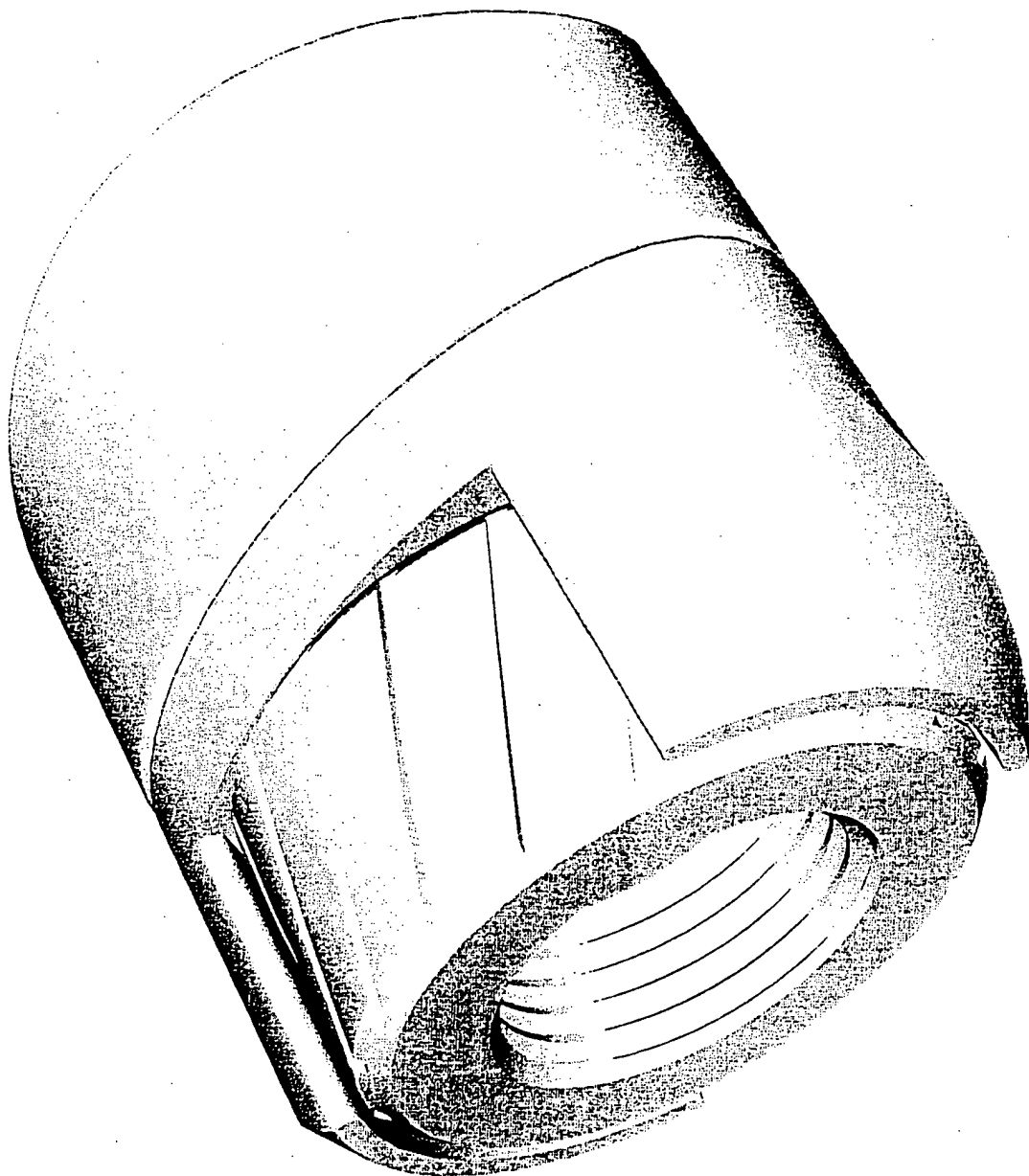
ALL METAL VERSION
CUTAWAY, UNINSTALLED



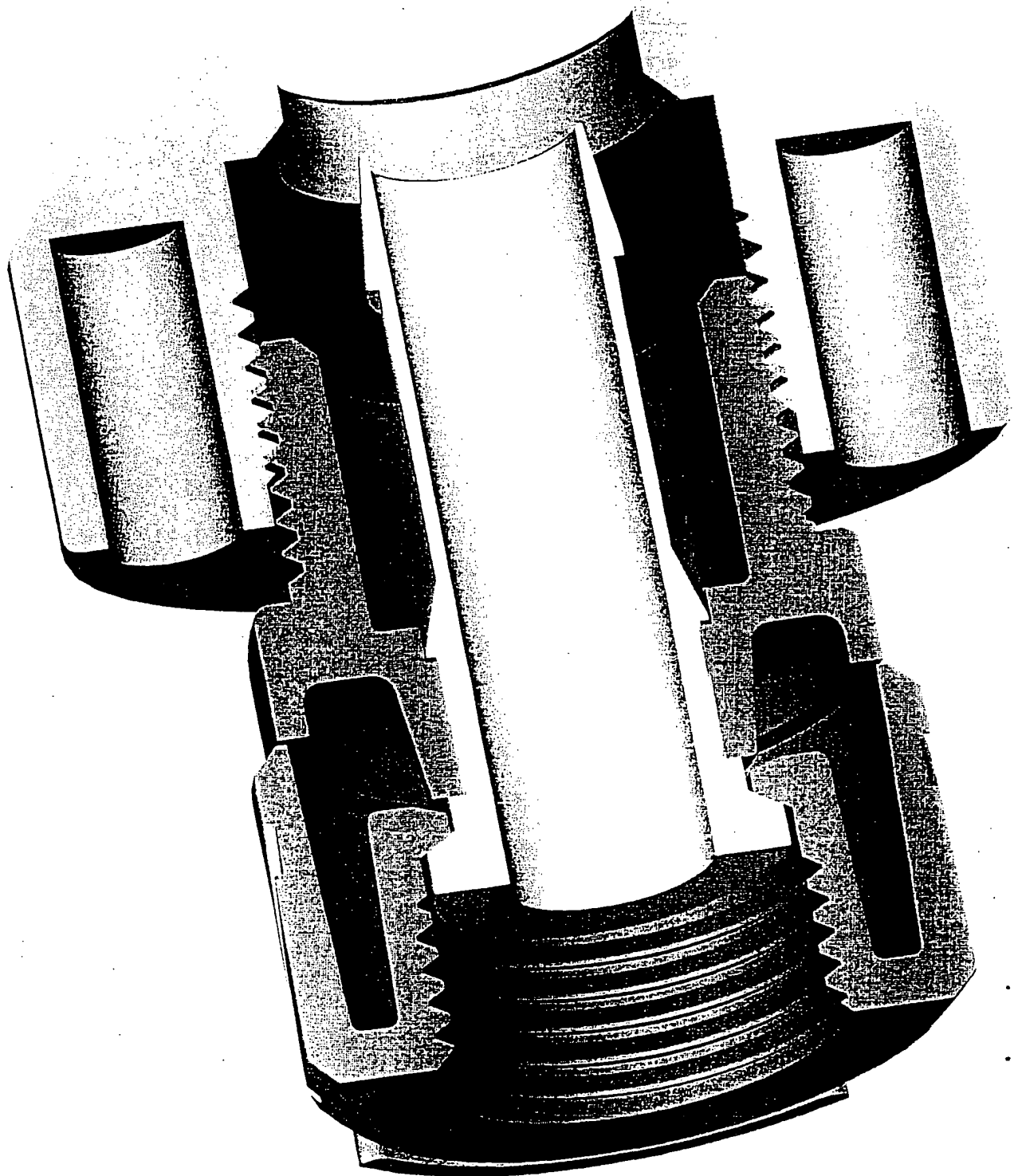
HAND TIGHTENABLE
PLASTIC CONSUMER
VERSION, PRIOR TO
INSTALLATION



CONSUMER VERSION,
INSTALLED

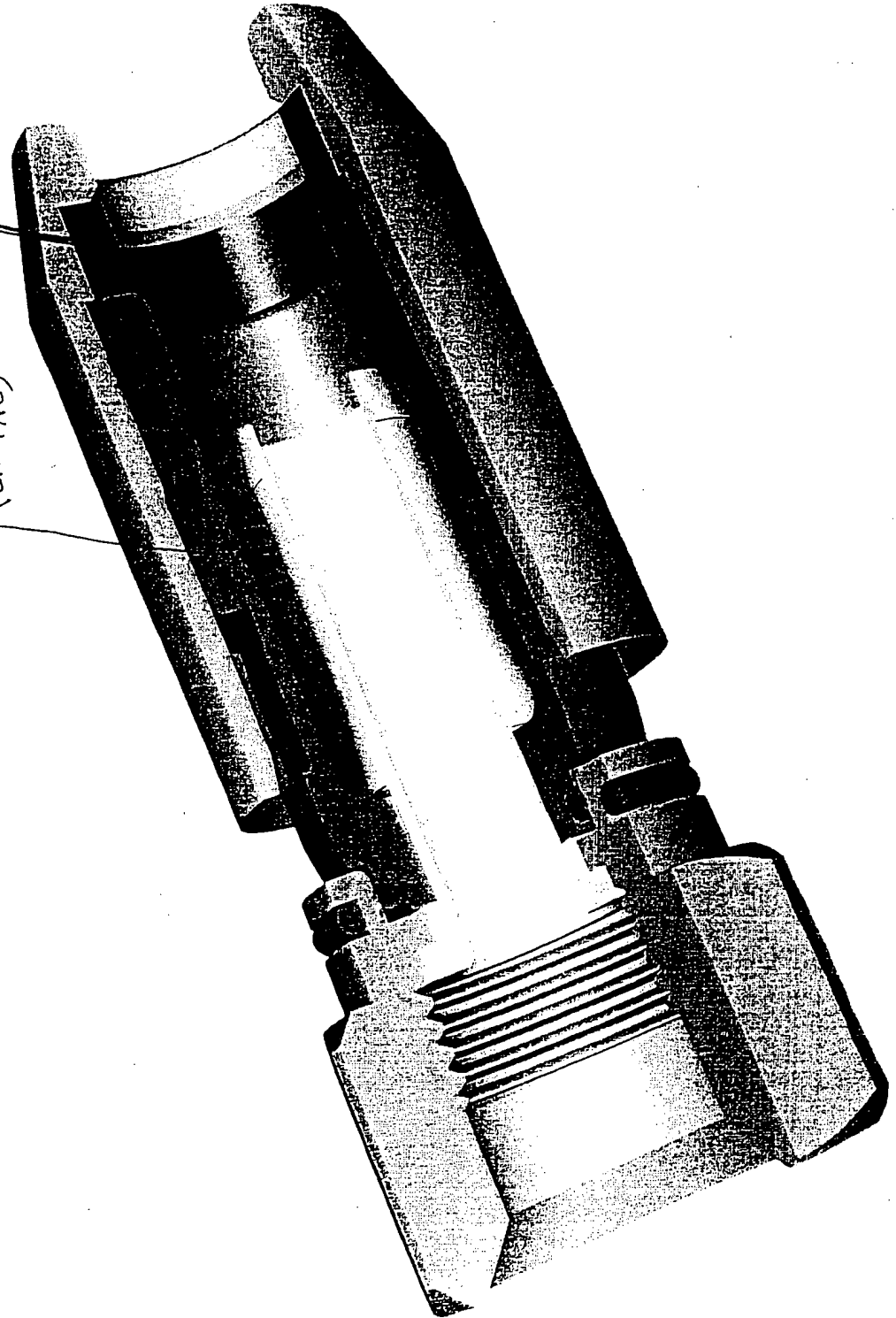


CONSUMER VERSION,
CUTAWAY, UNINSTALLED



REDUNDANT
SEAL

ORIGINAL
SEAL
(EX-TYPE)



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